United Nations E/2018/NGO/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2018

Original: English

2018 session
28 July 2017–27 July 2018
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by International Alliance for Responsible Drinking, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08688 (E) 110618

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Statement

The International Alliance for Responsible Drinking (IARD) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to addressing harmful drinking and promoting responsible drinking, among those who choose to drink. IARD is supported by its Member Companies from all sectors of the alcohol industry — beer, wine, and spirits — in their common purpose of being part of the solution to the harmful use of alcohol. The 11 companies behind some of the world's most popular beer, wine and spirits brands collectively employ 480,000 people, work across 110 countries, and with millions of retailers, including in hospitality, tourism and leisure sectors.

We believe that a range of policy options and approaches are necessary to combat the harmful use of alcohol, according to each nations' context and priorities, and we are committed to creating new relationships and models of working that drive positive change throughout all our communities in order to achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome policies that support economic growth and improve incomes and living conditions, resulting in improvements in health that in turn promote sustainable economic growth and enable a responsible and appropriately regulated business sector to thrive.

IARD fully supports the "whole of government, whole of society" approach to promoting economic and social development, including United Nations and WHO frameworks to tackle non-communicable disease and reduce the harmful use of alcohol. As many of these frameworks acknowledge, development of sustainable, resilient societies and a reduction in harmful drinking are best supported when private, public and not-for-profit organizations work together locally, nationally and globally.

To support these global frameworks, the world's leading alcohol producers have amplified their efforts to tackle the harmful use of alcohol by forging new partnerships across sectors, from governments and small retailers, to not-for-profits and others in the private sector. Through these partnerships, IARD members have reached more than 100 million people with educational messages focused on preventing underage drinking, established 330 campaigns to prevent drinking and driving across 88 countries, and demonstrated the important role of alcohol producers as effective partners in tackling harmful drinking, accelerating progress towards the United Nation's SDGs.

This year, IARD is working towards the publication of our Producers' Commitments 2018 Progress Report, including new responsible marketing standards for digital channels and a commitment to future actions to tackle alcohol misuse. We look forward to continuing to play an active and important role in this approach to support sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities, from global to local.